

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 2, 2013**



The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM July 2, 2013. Members present were: Dennis Crandall, Jackie Angove, Ben Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Todd Ristau, Judi Wilson, and Mark Zavinski. Also attending were Mary Ann Nau, City Administrator, and Teena Leary, City Executive Secretary.

VISITORS

Heidi Ekey: Community Mobilization Initiative
Barb Babcock: Community Mobilization Initiative
Mary Hagan-Double: Community Mobilization Initiative
Christopher Snyder: Young Lungs at Play! Program
Josh Cotton: Warren Times Observer

MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Wilson and second by Mrs. Angove, the minutes of the June 4, 2013 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Nau presented correspondence sent to Barb Phillips advising her of City Council's approval of the request to refurbish the Karen Bonnell Field sign. (See also 6/04/13 minutes)

BUSINESS

Outdoor Fitness Park. (See also 4/02/13 and 6/04/13 meeting minutes)

Heidi Ekey, Barb Babcock, and Mary Hagan-Double, members of the Community Mobilization Initiative (CMI) provided additional information regarding the plan for an outdoor fitness park including:

- The equipment being considered is fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant and would serve those aged twelve years and older, including senior citizens.
- The equipment has an expected useful life of ten to fifteen years. A sample of the tubular metal was shown to the Commission and it was noted that each piece is coded for easy identification as to the type of exercise provided (i.e. cardio, stretching).
- Poured-in-place rubber is the proposed material for the base for each piece of equipment as well as the connecting pathways.
- Per a survey conducted by the CMI, the top equipment choices are a leg press, air walker, and stretching stations. It is also anticipated that there would be at least one cardio station.
- Use of the equipment by the entire community will be encouraged with special emphasis on use by downtown workers. The CMI anticipates that workers will use the stations before and after work hours as well as during lunch breaks.

- The Community Foundation has endorsed the project and pledged funding assistance.
- The CMI has developed an association with the Warren County Development Association for fundraising purposes.
- The CMI's preferred location for development of the park is Clemons Park with up to nine pieces of equipment to be placed. Mrs. Nau noted that this park contains restrictions regarding the amount of green space and landscaping to be maintained.
- The vendors being considered each offer shade options for the various pieces of equipment; however, this is not part of the initial plan.

During discussion, Commission members expressed concern regarding the number of pieces of equipment proposed for placement in Clemons Park and suggested that another park be selected or that equipment be placed in multiple locations. Additional locations discussed were Morck Park and the Pennsylvania Avenue Parkway (south side of the 400 block of Pennsylvania Avenue). Also discussed were concerns regarding warranties, liability issues, responsibility for ongoing maintenance, impact on the Department of Public Works (mowing, snow removal), and the manner of promoting use of the equipment. It was noted that similar facilities were previously located in Crescent and Betts Parks and had received marginal use.

Mr. Ben Johnson made the motion to recommend Council's favorable consideration of the concept of establishing a fitness park within a 5-minute walking distance of the downtown area with the preferred location(s) being Clemons Park, DeFrees Park, and/or the Pennsylvania Avenue Walkway to be confirmed by the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation and Council approval following further design of the proposed park. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Members of the CMI and Mrs. Angove left the meeting at this point.

Young Lungs at Play! Program. (See also 6/04/13 meeting minutes)

Christopher Snyder, Beacon Light Supervisor of Prevention Services, distributed a handout outlining the Young Lungs at Play! Program. It was noted that the program may be implemented via a City ordinance, resolution, or policy. Mr. Snyder indicated that the program provides signage for placement in the smoke-free areas and the signs would be provided at no cost to the City. Commission members expressed interest in establishing smoke-free areas in the vicinity of playgrounds. Mr. Crandall indicated that the Commission will review the handouts and will further address this matter at its August regular meeting.

Mr. Snyder left the meeting at this point.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bocce Courts. There was some discussion regarding the use of the Betts Park Bocce Courts with Mrs. Nau indicating that City staff has been researching this matter. Mr. Crandall recalled that this was addressed by the Commission when they proposed a Betts Park Utilization Plan (circa 2003). The Plan provided for the "Bocce Group" to utilize

the courts and pavilion a specified number of times per season in exchange for assisting in the maintenance of the facilities.

Commission members concurred that the Lacy Park bocce courts are in poor condition and recommended that they be removed.

Beaty Park Improvement Project, Phase III. Mrs. Nau reported that the project bids came in over budget and that the additional funds required are being sought locally through the Community and DeFrees Foundations as well as through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). An agreement providing access to the project area via a Warren County School District access route has been signed by the City.

Warren County Historical Society Walking Tour. Mrs. Wilson displayed the draft of an updated Historic District Walking Tour which is being developed by the Warren County Historical Society.

Pool Hours. Mrs. Nau noted that the City is in receipt of correspondence addressed to the City Manager and members of City Council regarding the current pool hours. Mrs. Nau indicated that this item will be placed on the Commission's August 6 regular meeting agenda for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned.